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Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Chairman Pai,

A free market is, indeed a wonderful thing. However, the experience of the first 241 years of our Republic has shown over and over again that a truly free market is a market run amok, and it is only the market that is regulated to ensure fairness that can fulfill its duty of being a benefit to both provider and consumer. From the abuses of the Robber Barons and monopolists to the labor market's continued use of undocumented workers, every market in our economy needs at least minimal oversight to maintain its fairness.

That is why in Proceeding 17-108: Restoring Internet Freedom, I strongly support Title 2 oversight of Internet Service Providers. These providers have already indicated they will use the lack of Title 2 oversight to game the market, creating a situation that is fair neither for consumers or the digital products they consume. We would never allow a privately operated toll road – of which there are many in this country, including one in my own state of Indiana – to charge different shipping companies different tolls based on what they thought the market could bear. And yet that is exactly the situation that will be created by removing Title 2 oversight of ISPs.

I must also warn you that removing net neutrality would allow an even darker opportunity: Areas with only one choice of Internet provider would be vulnerable to that provider basing prices on political or other choices. A liberal provider could, for example, manipulate prices in a way to make streamed television channels or social networks preferred by conservatives more expensive or even price them out of the market entirely. I'm certain you agree that would be intolerable, and yet that is exactly what your proposal would allow.

I urge you to maintain net neutrality through Title 2 oversight of ISPs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Stockman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Stockman